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THE IOWA COLLECTOR
Volume 30, Number 3 - Fall 1995

A Publication of the Iowa Numismatic Association

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Old Capital Coin Club is holding their first coin auction during their regular business meeting on October 10, 1995. Contact James c. Lefhardt, 1029 E. Court St., Iowa City, IA 52240 for a auction bill.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT:

I hope you all had an enjoyable and successful coin collecting Summer. The temperature has been so hot that remaining indoors, in the air conditioning, and working with coins or sportscards has been the only way to go. It has even been difficult for me to perform the necessary yard work.

This Summer has not seen many club sponsored shows around Iowa, which is usually the case. We have been to many commercial shows here and State shows around the Midwest. Things will be changing in the near future as we enter Fall and Winter (That word WINTER doesn't sound too good either!).

Speaking of the Fall schedule, I certainly want to invite everyone to attend the Iowa Numismatic Association Annual Show and Convention to be held at the Starlight Motel in Fort Dodge on October 21st & 22nd. You will find mention of this event throughout this bulletin...note the various activities which are scheduled and plan to participate in those which are of interest.

There will be a I.N.A. Board Meeting at 8:00am on Sunday morning at the Starlight. I hope to see you there. This meeting provides everyone a chance to present their ideas and recommendations to the Board of Officers.

It has come to my attention that the section of the Iowa Collector entitled "When and Where Iowa's Coin Clubs Meet" is not current for many of the clubs. I am asking officials of each club to review the information listed and furnish any necessary changes to the Editor. Thank you.

Finally, just a reminder of our goal to form at least one new coin club in each district. If you are in need of assistance with this, please contact your District Representative or any member of the I.N.A. Board. I am sure you will receive all the help you need.

See you somewhere around the state.

Roger A. Wolver, Sr., President

SHOW CALENDAR

Sept 23 & 24, **Fort Dodge, IA.** Fort Dodge Coin Club 1995 Coin, Stamp, Sportscard & Collectibles Show, Crossroads Mall, East on Hwy 20
Bourse: LeRoy Collins.

Oct 8, **Dubuque, IA.** Key City Coin Club Coin Show, Julien Inn, 200 Main Street
Bourse: Maru Lou Ness (815) 747-6586.

Oct 14, **Gelwein, IA.** Olwein Coin Club Annual Show, Bourse: Jim Ralls.

Oct 21 & 22, **Fort Dodge, IA. I.N.A. Annual Show & Convention**, Starlight Village Motel, Junction Hwys 169 & 7, North 1518 3rd Ave NW,
Bourse: Paul Becker, (515) 576-7915.

Oct. 28 & 29, Moon Show?

Nov 4 & 5, **Keokuk, IA.** Keokuk Coin Club Annual Fall Collector's Show, Keosippi Mall. Bourse: Tom Gardner

Nov 12, **Mount Pleasant, IA.** Iris City Coin Club Annual Show, Student Union of Iowa Wesleyan College, 601 N. Main. Bourse: Gawain O'Connor (515) 472-9393.

Dec 10, **Cedar Rapids, IA.** Cedar Rapids Coin Club Coin Show, Sheraton Inn, 525 33rd Ave. S.W. (West side of I-380 at 33rd Ave. Exit).
Bourse: Nevin Roberts (319) 377-6974.

Reminder: If your Coin Club is preparing to schedule a Coin Show, please contact the I.N.A. Show Coordinator prior to scheduling the event. This will avoid scheduling conflicts and provides the information for inclusion in this Show Calendar. The current Show Coordinator is: Roger A. Wolver, 309 North 11th, Oskaloosa, IA 52577, Tel: (515) 673-6677 or (515) 673-6633

Secretary's Message

We want to welcome the new members and also a special thanks to our new advertisers! Be sure that you tell them you saw their ad in The Collector when you see them at coin shows or coin meetings. An ad in The Collector makes our expenses putting out a quality publication in line to keep your association healthy.

The plans for the State Convention in Ft. Dodge on October 21 and 22 are growing. We have plans for a tour for the ladies, a hospitality room open during show hours and after the banquet for members and wives to rest and visit. We are honored to have Cliff Mishler for banquet speaker--he was our special guest speaker the last time Ft. Dodge hosted the INA Convention.

The INA Board of Directors is going to bring up to the general membership a change in Director Districts--going to 12 districts and doing away with the directors-at-large. This takes a change in By-laws, so please be at the Annual Meeting.

I received notice that a long-time faithful member and show attender passed away. Paul Graves of Marshalltown will be missed by friends and coin collectors who knew him.

The gold and silver market have jumped around this summer, and I hope that you have been able to find some of those elusive coins you need for your sets. The government has certainly put out a variety of medals to cover about everyone's interest.

Harry and I are retiring from the Ft. Dodge Coin shop, so I will be able to have more time to do a better job as your secretary. We will still be in the coin business, only at a much slower pace!

See you in October, if not before.

JoAnn Peters
Secretary/Treasurer

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When and Where Iowa's Coin Clubs Meet:

Ames - Last Wednesday, Senior Citizens Center, 7:30 p.m.

Burlington - Last Tuesday, Buescher Hall, 611 Columbia St., 7:30 p.m.

Cedar Falls - Next to the Last Tuesday, Cedar Falls Rec. Center, 7:00 p.m.

Cedar Rapids - Third Wednesday (except July), KUBA Community Center,
1300 13th Ave SE, 7:30 p.m.

Central Iowa (Marshalltown) - Third Wednesday, The Fisher Community
Center, 7:30pm

Clarion - Forth Wednesday, I.P.S. Pizza Ranch on Main St., 7.30 p.m.

Davenport - First Tuesday, Davenport Public Library, 4th & Main St, 7:00
p.m.

Decorah - First Tuesday, V.F.W. Building basement, 104 State St. 7:30 p.m.

Des Moines - First Tuesday, Baker's Cafeteria, Sherwood Forest, 74th &
Hickman Rd. 6:30 p.m.

Fair field - Third Tuesday, Hardies, 7:30 p.m.

Fort Dodge - Second Thursday, ICCC Voc. Tech Bldg. 7:30 p.m.

Fort Madison - Third Tuesday, Midwest Savings & Loan Drive-in, 4520 ave
L, 7:30 p.m.

Grinnell - Second Monday, Senior Citizens Room, Community Center, 7:30
p.m.

ILlowa (Clinton) - Third Thursday, Gateway State Bank, Clinton, 7:30 p.m.

Independence - Third Saturday, Courthouse Basement, 7:30 p.m.

Iris City (Mt. Pleasant) - First Thursday, Breadoux Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

Keokuk - Fourth Thursday (Third Thursday in Nov. & Dec.), Keokuk Sr. High School Library (Summers at SCC's S. Campus Student Lounge), 7:30 p.m.

Old Capital (Iowa City) - Second Tuesday, West High School, Room 13, 7:30 p.m.

Oskaloosa - Second Tuesday, Basement of Farm Bureau Building, 7:30 p.m.

Ottumwa - Fourth Tuesday, Colormaster, Inc., 800 Gateway Dr., 7:30 p.m.

Port City (Muscatine) - Fourth Tuesday, Holiday Inn, Muscatine, Hwys. 61 & 38, 7:30 p.m.

Quad City (Moline, IL) - Third Thursday, Garden Center, 5th Ave at 34th St., 7:30 p.m.

Red Oak - First Monday, Farmers Mercantile Building, Old Hwy. 34, 7: p.m.

Siouxland (Sioux City) - First Wednesday, Vintage Collectables Inc., 4109 Tyler St. 7:00 p.m.

Storm Lake - Third Thursday, IPS Meeting Room, Winters at 7:30 p.m.; Summers at 8:00 p.m.

Wadena - Third Thursday, Historical Center, West Union, 8:00 p.m.

Waterloo - Second Thursday, Waterloo Arts & Recreation Center, First and Commercial Streets, 7:00 p.m.

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1995 Iowa Numismatic Association Convention

The INA State Convention and Coin Show is slated to be held in Fort Dodge, Iowa on October 21 and 22, 1995. The Fort Dodge Coin Club is sponsoring the annual event which will be held at the Starlite Village Motel (located at the junction of Highways 169 and 7).

Hours of the show are as follows:

Saturday 9 AM - 5:00PM

Banquet 5:30PM to 7:00PM with an auction following

Sunday 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Dealers can set up Saturday morning starting at 7:00 and Sunday starting at 8:00AM

Events planned are:

Prime rib banquet at a cost of \$9.95 per person.

guest speaker: Cliff Mishler, President of the publication "Numismatic News"

200 lot auction of high quality, low mintage numismatic material

Door Prizes & gold coin drawing

Ladies tour

Short INA business meeting

There will be 45 or more vendor tables at the show. Auction items can be viewed all day Saturday. Rooms are available at the Starlite Village Motel Phone 1-800-903-0009, as well as other area motels. For additional show information, call Paul Becker, General Chairperson at 515-955-7915, or Michael Scacci, Co-chairperson at 515-955-5462.

The Illinois Numismatic Association Presents Its

36th Annual Coin Show & Convention

Friday, Sept. 29th thru Sunday, Oct 1st, 1995
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The Iowa Plan

by Michael S. Turrini, CSNA LM 30-20

With this article, time has arrived to conclude the mini-series 'Collectors, Too, Buy the Coin.' Notwithstanding much more could be penned on the Iowa Plan" of distribution and sales, these seven articles clearly and concisely validated how labored and involved were the distribution and sales of the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollar.

The motive for this final article, finishing the mini series, is to supplement the prior six articles with additional facts and anecdotes gleaned about the distribution and sales from both Ralph Evans' profuse files, so faithfully kept, and the still held records of the Iowa State Treasurer.

The Iowa Centennial Committee was rightly proud and thrilled with the sales' success and profit earned. Its own Report of Activities, so often alluded to in this whole series, labeled the "coin sale" as "an amazing, even a surprising, demonstration of state pride," and further, "orders came from every state in the Union plus Canada." The sales ended by April 1, 1947. The Iowa Centennial Committee held its final meeting sometime on or about the last day of March 1947; this author has been unable to pinpoint the exact date. Shortly thereafter, within a day or so a terse news release was issued announcing the sales "halted." *Refer to Figure 1.* To note, Charles Barber's name was incorrectly spelled, and this clipping was not found in the copious Ralph Evans' files; rather, someone unknown in the State Treasurer's Office diligently clipped and saved it.

Editor's Note: For Part 13 in the Iowa half dollar series, see the PCNS Journal, October, 1992, Number 33, pp.6-12. Starting with Part 8 in the July, 1991 issue of the Journal of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society and continuing to this present article, Michael S. Turrini has conducted an examination into the elaborate "Iowa Plan" (as the Iowa Centennial Committee's own Report of Activities titled the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial commemorative half dollars' distribution and sales).

To complete the sales of all the half dollars, one lone half dollar still remained. As was reviewed in the previous article (*PCNS Journal*, October 1992, Number 33) then State Treasurer John M. Grimes' (1873-1971) significant May 6, 1947 letter to the Iowa Centennial Committee's Chairman Lester Milligan (1893-1977) accounted: "Coins On Hand - 1; One Commemorative Half Dollar." This lone half dollar was to be the last half dollar sold.

Found in the State Treasurer's files was a short penciled undated note, but evidently written in early May 1947, from a John Langstraat, of Holland Home, in Sheldon, Iowa. Mr. Langstraat crudely wrote, on newsprint quality writing tablet paper, "Dear Sir, would (you) please send me a token of Iowa hundred years old free of charge please it will stay between you and me (sic). He gave his age as 76.

State Treasurer Grimes, for whatever reason, responded, and in a touching act of generosity, mailed him the lone remaining half dollar. Refer to Figure 2. Mr. Langstraat on May 12, 1947 replied with his gratitude, "(sic) sure appreciate it." Did Mr. Lantstraat know one half dollar remained? Was he an old friend of Mr. Grimes who himself was also in his seventies (70's)? Or, was Mr Langstraat just fortunate? Who knows? Whatever, he is (in numismatics) listed as the final 'purchaser' of an Iowa half dollar. At least, it reads a sentimental short narrative to the Iowa half dollar saga.

Others were not so lucky. Nearly two years later, on March 11,

IOWA PRESS
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Morning Register
Des Moines, Iowa

Centennial Coin Sale Is Halted

Iowa's state centennial coins are all sold, except for the 1,000 being held back for posterity.

Charles Barbour, deputy state treasurer, reported Wednesday that all 99,000 coins placed on public sale in December have been disposed of and future orders will go unfilled.

The coins were sold at \$2.50 each for Iowans and \$3 for out-of-state residents. Five hundred were held back for sale in 1996, the year of Iowa's 150th statehood anniversary, and 500 more for 2046, when the state will be 200 years old.

FIGURE 1

1949, State Treasurer Grimes answered an inquiry rejoining that "the Iowa Commemorative Half Dollars were entirely distributed through this office within two months from the time they were offered and the only ones which are available at this time are those which may be secured from a coin dealer," he recommends a "Mr. M.C. Sweney,

May 7, 1947

Mr. John Langstraat
Holland Home
Sheldon, Iowa

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of recent date. At the time your letter arrived there was just one coin left for sale, which you will find enclosed. It is a gift to you from this office. The regular price is being paid by the Treasurer and two deputies. There were never any coins set aside for gifts

I hope you will enjoy and appreciate the coin. It is commemorative of one hundred years of the growth of the great State of Iowa.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Treasurer of State

JMG:mvf
encl

FIGURE 2

1841 Laurel Ave, St. Paul" who "had some of the coins," as a potential coin dealer. Why Mr. Sweney and not an Iowa coin dealer? Who knows?

Was this inquiry from a coin hobbyist whose experience with commemorative coin issues of the 1920's and 1930's led him to believe that not all Iowa half dollars had been sold? Or, was it a legitimate request? The importance of this letter was that two years had lapse

since the close of the half dollars' sale.

In as much we know who was the final inquiry and we know a Mr. Langstraat acquired the last Iowa half dollar, then who or what obtained the first one, id est, the actual first Iowa half dollar minted? Again, the voluminous files of Ralph Evans and the State Treasurer answer, but only partially.

From a March 1, 1948 letter, only a carbon-copy remained on file, Governor Robert D. Blue (1898-1989) instructed Ralph Evans that he, The Governor, would "like the 'Number One coin' (Governor's capitalization) presented to the Iowa Historical Society in Des Moines."

Because this 'Number One coin' and the related first fifty (50) Half dollars minted have not, as of yet, been accurately verified, their status and the existence of this 'Number One coin' remain uncertain. Did the Historical Society receive it? Yes; however, according to Jerome L. Thompson of the historical Society's Museum, the Society received not one, but four (4), half dollars and that none of these were labeled nor numbered. The matter of these first fifty (50) half dollars minted, which would include this 'Number One coin,' has yet to be clarified.

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John Thomas Hickman - a Connoisseur of historical Cash - Dies

In the numismatic world, John Hickman might have been called "a flaming rarity," one of the many zippy terms he often used for categorizing and pricing National Bank Notes, which were issued by the Treasury Department from 1862 to 1935.

Mr. Hickman, 68, called "America's resident expert on Nationals" by Wisconsin publisher Chet Krause, died of cancer June 22, 1995 at Hospice Kavanagh House in Des Moines.

Mr. Hickman co-wrote the "Standard Catalog of National Bank Notes," which Krause's company published. Dealers and collectors call it the premier guide for Nationals Hobbyists, and Krause said Mr. Hickman had assembled and identified bank and serial numbers of about 150,000 of these Notes. As a result, he was able to assign rarity to each, significantly advancing the hobby. "He was the only one that went into that kind of statistical information," Krause said.

Ben Marlenee, owner of Ben Marlenee Rare Coins in Des Moines, said that before the computer age Mr. Hickman carried two suitcases full of statistical information so he could help collectors who had a question about a particular Note.

"National Bank Note Collecting has grown by leaps and bounds because of John's work," Marlenee said, "and it didn't make any difference whether he was talking with an 8-year-old boy or an 80-year-old man, he was very free with his knowledge."

Mr. Hickman was instrumental in starting the William R Higgins Jr. Foundation Museum and Library in Okoboji, which holds the most complete collection of Iowa Nationals as well as major collections from Missouri and Minnesota. Memorial contributions may be made to the Higgins Museum Foundation or the American Cancer Society.

Exert from the *Des Moines Register* 6-30-1995 by Melissa Myers

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Join the Iowa Numismatic Association!

Membership

Any person interested in numismatics, over eighteen years of age and of good moral character may become a member upon recommendation of the membership committee. Dues to be \$5.00 per year.

Object

The object of this corporation shall be to:

Encourage and promote the science of numismatics.

Cultivate fraternal relationships among coin collectors and students.

Foster the interest of youth in the subject.

Encourage and assist new collectors.

Stimulate and advance affiliations between our associations and kindred organizations in the United States and foreign countries.

Acquire and disseminate numismatic knowledge.

Generally represent numismatic interests throughout the State of Iowa.

Junior Members

Any person between the ages of 0 and 18 years old and sponsored by a senior member be considered for junior membership. Junior members may not hold office, but may vote for elective officers. Dues to be \$2.00 per year.

Officers

Officers are elected every two years by membership vote, by mail ballot, and take office at the annual convention following the election. Officers consist of sixteen members, including the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary/Treasurer, the immediate Past-President, and eleven Directors.

The annual membership meeting is held each year at the Iowa Numismatic Association's annual convention in the Fall.

The Iowa Collector, the official bulletin, is published three times each year and sent to each member. The I.N.A., upon request, will help the heirs of any member of good standing find a qualified person or persons, in his or her area, to appraise a estate.

For further information about the I.N.A. contact any member, director or officer. A application has been enclosed with this issue of The Iowa Collector. To join fill it in and send it along with your check to:

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Iowa Numismatic Association - Area 4 Director

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

I hereby make application for membership in the **IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION**, subject to the provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

Send this application together with \$5.00 for the current year's dues. Young applicants' dues are \$2.00 per year until age eighteen.

NOTE: The I.N.A. year runs from January 1st to January 1st..

Date _____

Mr. _____

Applicants Name (please print)

Mailing Address

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State

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Date & Year of Birth

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Proposer

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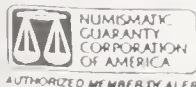
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